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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — AM

Fair Labor Standards Amendment of 1961

SPEECH
OF

HON. JOHN V. LINDSAY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1961

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8935) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, to provide coverage for employees of large enterprises engaged in retail trade or service and of other employers engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, to increase the minimum wage under the act to \$1.25 an hour, and for other purposes.

Mr. LINDSAY. Mr. Chairman, I support a \$1.25 minimum wage bill and expanded coverage. It is my intention, therefore, to cast my vote for the committee bill and against the substitute bill, which is a flat \$1.15 bill with less coverage.

An adequate minimum wage is not a vehicle for Government regulation of industry nor should it be. The goal of any minimum wage legislation should be to afford a minimum standard of living and a healthy atmosphere for competitive industry without turning loose the long tentacles of Government that could strangle the efforts and ingenuity of a free economy.

The bill before us providing for an increase to \$1.25 and extending coverage to certain retail and service industries by means of a dollar volume test is both realistic and sound. Competitive advantage based on substandard wages will be reduced. Less efficient businesses will seek to offset any increased labor costs by improvement of production methods. Greater productivity will increase purchasing power, relieve localities of unemployment claims, and go a long way toward enabling workers receiving substandard wages to gain a reasonable standard of living.

In my view there should be no argument as to the propriety of the dollar volume test. The committee bill presents no severe departure from the traditional concepts of commerce and production for commerce. An enterprise engaged in activities affecting commerce is by no means a novel test. Nor is the dollar volume test so applied. Such a test has been sustained by the courts over and over again witness the Taft-Hartley Act and the Landrum-Griffin Act. There is no dubious scheme here to include enterprises unrelated to each other, for only those industries bound by a common chain of business can be related. Furthermore the legislative record written thus far is most explicit on that point. Conversely the interstate commerce test of the substitute bill strikes me as being quite arbitrary. It predicates coverage on businesses which have five or more outlets in two or more States. This can result in the anomalous circumstance of the marginal small business being covered and a large big-dollar volume competitor being exempted.

I am not persuaded by the argument that the economic impact of a minimum wage increase will be unfavorable. The history of the Fair Labor Standards Act does not bear out such a contention. The increased labor costs to the employers have been adequately offset by other internal improvements geared to greater production. This benefits the employer and the employee. Higher minimums in the past have not increased unemployment.

Lastly, a realistic \$1.25 minimum wage bill is badly needed for it will certainly help to reduce runaway industry. This is serious in New York and it is equally serious in many sectors of the Nation. We cannot continue to provide a climate that produces less than minimum standards of living, reduced purchasing power, runaway industry, unfair competitive advantage and heavy drains on local communities for welfare assistance.

We can go a long way toward improving such conditions by enactment of a sound minimum wage bill. The prescription has been written. I hope that we can resolve our differences on coverage extensions and provide new ingredients for a healthier economy by enacting this bill.

Encourage Travel to the United States

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. PAUL G. ROGERS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 1961

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, during his economic message to the Congress, the President indicated the need to increase foreign travel into the United States and suggested that action be taken in this field. Hearings are now being held by the Commerce Subcommittee of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce on several proposals to assist this worthy effort. Editorial comment in Florida has been most favorable to such a program and because it is timely to the current hearings, I request that the editorial of the News-Tribune, of Fort Pierce, Fla., be placed here in the RECORD:

PROMOTING TRAVEL TO THIS COUNTRY

President Kennedy, in his special message to Congress Monday on the gold problem, emphasized the important role played by tourism in the economy.

Americans now spend about \$2 billion abroad in pleasure travel each year. Foreigners visiting this country spend about \$1 billion a year. The difference accounts for a substantial proportion of the country's deficit in the balance of payments.

President Kennedy did not propose setting a limit on the amount Americans can spend abroad. He did suggest that Congress seek to discourage some spending abroad by reducing from \$300 to \$100 the duty-free goods Americans can bring home.

Such a change is not likely to result in a substantial cutback in spending by Americans abroad. The great bulk of these expenditures are for transportation, food, and hotel accommodations. A study of 65,000

of customs in New York during July of 1959—a heavy travel month—showed that 82 percent of returning travelers spent less than \$200 on gifts and similar items; only 10 percent spent more than \$500. Spot checks since 1959 have confirmed the original findings.

A more effective means of reducing the dollar gap is through increased spending of foreign tourists in this country. Last year, 5,384,000 visits were made to the United States. But \$3.5 billion were by Canadians and Mexicans and many of these were by the same persons who crossed the border frequently and stayed for short periods. Only 544,000 visitors from another continent came to the United States last year, compared to the more than 700,000 Americans who visited in Europe in 1959.

Each visitor to this country spends an estimated \$200 in addition to expenditures on transportation. This obviously could be a sizeable source of income. But the United States to date has made only the most superficial efforts to attract more visitors.

President Kennedy has promised that the Departments of Commerce, State, and Treasury will announce a major program to encourage more travel to this country. An effective program could yield important dividends in understanding as well as needed foreign exchange.

Galindez Will Be Vindicated

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. WILLIAM FITTS RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 1961

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following address which I delivered on Saturday evening, March 18, at the Columbia University Club in New York City at a dinner commemorating the fifth anniversary of the disappearance of Columbia University Scholar Jesus de Galindez. The dinner was sponsored by the Inter-American Association for Democracy and Freedom.

My address follows:

GALINDEZ WILL BE VINDICATED

Five years ago last Sunday Jesus de Galindez vanished from the heart of New York City. Some of you knew him, perhaps as a young man in Vasconia, or later here in the New World where he continued to fight for the principles of freedom and human dignity.

I did not have the pleasure of knowing Dr. Galindez. But as a graduate of Columbia Law School and as Democratic leader of the seventh assembly district, which encompasses Columbia University where Dr. Galindez studied and taught, I have had a deep interest in the matter since the first chapters of this horrid international crime began to unfold.

THE TRAIL LED TO TRUJILLO

I profoundly regret that I was not a Member of Congress 5 years ago. Galindez deserved the most ardent pursuit of his murderers by all legitimate means. A mountain of evidence indicated Dominican complicity in the disappearance of Galindez. The Department of Justice followed the trail straight to Trujillo's door.

Trujillo frustrated U.S. legal procedures by refusing to drop the mantle of diplomatic